

Wednesday 29th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Fantastic Fundraising

We are so proud of one of our pupils in Year 2. Isaac Knowles had the great idea that he would like to fund raise for Christian Aid. It should have been Christian Aid week beginning the 11th May and we usually have our Big Brekkie to raise funds to support Christian Aid. However, as school will be closed Isaac, who is only 7 years of age, decided he would like to try and do something on his own. We are immensely proud of Isaac and are supporting him the best we can ... here is what Mum has had to say:

*"Isaac started a challenge with family and friends to cycle 100km in 10 days in an indoor cycle. He smashed his £50 target and is now almost at the £2000, in a week! We decided to do this to help the school with their Christian Aid collection, which would suffer this year due to the school being closed. We also wanted to support foodbanks as there is an increased demand for them during this awful time. As we have raised more than we ever dreamed of, we are also donating a portion to the Everton in The Community People's Hub, which is a mental health facility and also the DarbyRimmer MND Foundation. We have a bonus ball competition to win a Family Ticket for a stadium tour of Anfield, at £2 a number. My email address is kylie_c88@hotmail.com if anybody would be interested in this. Isaac, as you all know is a massive Evertonian but he may even end up wearing another local teams colours to get us to the £2000 mark. He has also pledged to shave off his lovely curls. We thank you in advance for any support you can offer, even just by sharing his page. <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kylie-cousins-2>
Thanks so much! We have exceeded £2000 mark which is phenomenal and Everton have interviewed him for their website! It's all so exciting."*

As a school we will be continuing to support Isaac in his quest to help others, what a fantastic example he is to everyone else, demonstrating such kindness and thoughtfulness towards others, keep it up Isaac – I'm sure you will inspire others too.

Christian Values

With people like Captain Tom Moore and our own Isaac, they show how just one person's kindness can care for others and that their kindness has spread. It is easy to forget in difficult times like these that there are always others who are far worse off than ourselves and need our help and support. It can provide some comfort knowing that we can all do our part in caring for others. Please go to www.stoswaldsnetherton.com, click on the Christian character tab and then at the bottom – Picture News, There is a lovely fact sheet and activity ideas around Captain Moore. The big question is "How can one person make a big difference?" We would like to reflect on the values of community, friendship and service this week. "Love one another as I have loved you." **John 15:12.**



This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let peace begin with me
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of humankind
Love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house
So Many hearts make a school.
Amen



Home Learning/Workbooks.

We hope you have enjoyed using the books we have sent home for the children, you should have received a comprehension book and a Spelling Punctuation and Grammar book for Year 1 and 2 children and two comprehension books and a Spelling Punctuation and Grammar book for Years 3 -6. If you have not received them please contact school.

Worksheets

Even in this difficult time we are conscious of the environment and costs. We will NOT be printing worksheets to send home – there is plenty available on the website and with the workbooks we have sent home.

Remember schools had no notice, no preparation time and we were **NOT** told to 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home' – that's **NOT** possible. If it were, we'd all be out of a job. We will do what we can and continue to do what we feel is right with the information we have each day.

Website/Twitter

All teachers have been very busy preparing and researching work for children to do at home. Each class has their own tasks to do on the class pages, which are regularly updated. The teachers are able to check who has been using the online systems they have set for children and as from next week they will be calling you at home to congratulate those who have been completing the work set, to discuss any problems and just to keep in touch. The teachers will also be posting a personal video message to you all by the end of the week.

Alongside the webpages we have also been putting up curriculum activities that the whole family can enjoy. If you look at the curriculum tab and then each subject – there is also a home learning tab. There are plenty of activities, which can be done at home with limited resources.

There remains a daily challenge on our Twitter @stoswaldscep, many of you have sent pictures of what you have made when you have completed the challenge, these are great and we have loved looking at them and seeing how creative you have all been. Keep it up – it is putting a smile on everyone's faces.

Share your day

Would you like to share your day? If so, what was favourite part of your child's day?

Favourite bit of learning? Favourite bit of family time? Did you exercise? What did you do?

Please send this to us by email or on our Twitter @stoswaldscep.

* Please note that if you send us your pictures, we will share them on Twitter.

My ideal for the children in our school

- Reading every day (independent or to them or via audiobook etc.)
- Free writing. If they'll keep a diary or something, great. If not, would they draw a comic?
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games, physical or digital. We have lots of digital sites available on the website which children can access – if you have lost or forgotten the passwords please contact school and we can send them to you. Learning about money and telling the time would be a great maths home activity.
- Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys.
- Physical exercise everyday.
- Some art/music where possible through the week. Doesn't need to be guided.
- Stretch goal, if old enough getting them to independently work on a project is great for keeping brains ticking over. Get them researching in a book or online and putting together something to present to you or family.
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

During this time, we know that many children will be using online gaming and messaging. Please continue to monitor children using these and ensure that not an excessive amount of time is spent on these devices. We continue to provide learning materials, many which can be completed without a screen. If you are worried about anything online remember to access the CEOP button on our school website or contact Childline. Resources to support online safety are updated regularly on our online safety page also.

Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Look on our website for ideas for improving well-being and some activities to help you with the children. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call.

St. Oswald's "Keep Calm and Carry on" & DFE advice re Corona Virus

I would like to thank all the parents who I have spoken to for their calm and sensible attitude during this time. I can assure all of you that we are only offering a service to those children who have been highlighted as vulnerable or key workers under Government guidelines. Things may change further as we are informed daily by the Government, what the next steps are. If anyone has any concerns or feels they are not being treated fairly please see the Government guidance on www.gov.uk website and select the area you are interested in finding more information about.

Nursery Class Places

We have places available for our Nursery class for September for 15 hours and also 30 hour provision. If you would like to apply for a place at our Nursery class, please do not hesitate to contact the school office for an application form. Forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/page/key-information/30511>

Free School Meals

We have had lots of enquiries about whether you are entitled to free school meals. Universal Free School Meals are given to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This does not mean that you are entitled in income based free school meals. This stops at the end of Year 2. If you are unsure please contact school for further details.

Uniform Orders

The time of the year when we ask parents to start to order their uniform for September has now arrived! Even through these uncertain times, it is something that we need to start thinking about. Attached is the uniform order form. We will be accepting orders later this year than ever before. Orders should be placed by 3.15pm on 01.06.20, and payment should be made at the time of placing your order. Thank you.

Take care everyone, stay safe and hopefully we will see you all soon. Keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E. Murtagh
Headteacher